

35

wave
LISTEN
TO ME!

HIROAKI SAMURA



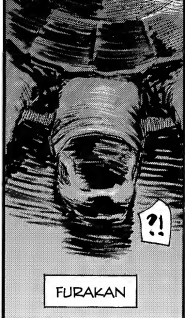
Chapter 5 IT WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE THEM!

HIROAKI
SAMURA

wave
LISTEN TO ME!



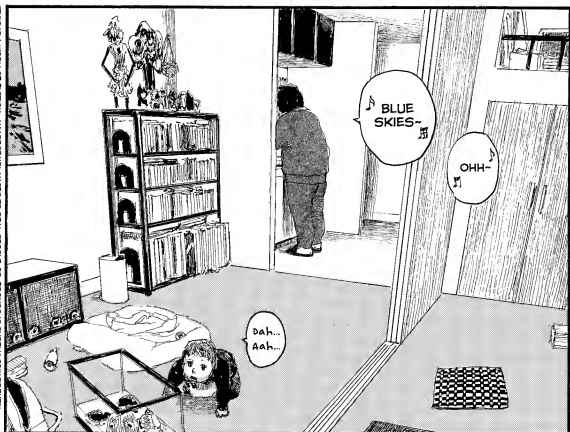
OKUYUHON



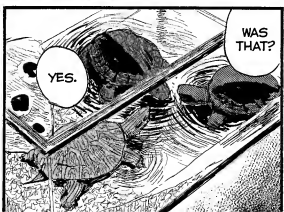
FURAKAN



HODOKON



*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCES TO REAL PEOPLE OR GROUPS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.



AND WATCHING
THEM THE
WHOLE TIME,
THE INNOCENT
BABY REALIZED
THAT SOMETHING
WAS AMISS.

WITH
THEIR ANIMAL
INSTINCTS, THE
THREE TURTLES
SENSED THAT
MIZUHO AND
THE OTHERS
WERE IN
DANGER.

NEVER-
THELESS,
NEITHER
OF THEM
COULD DO
ANYTHING
TO HELP.

Don't
drool
on us!

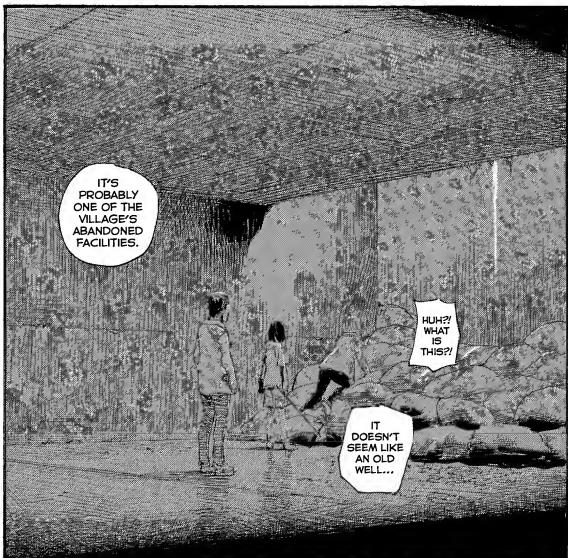
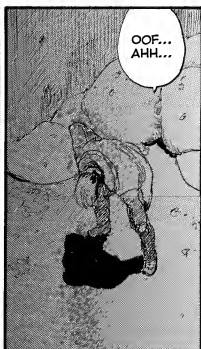
Aah!
Hey!

THE
STORY
SO
FAR

UNDER FM STATION WORKER MATO'S GUIDANCE, MINARE KODA HAS MADE HER DEBUT AS A RADIO DJ, AND MANAGES TO GET BY ONE SHOW AT A TIME. MEANWHILE, SCRIPT WRITER KUREKO MOVES TO MAKE A CAREER SHIFT AND BEGINS PLANNING A TRIP TO WASSAMU TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR A NEW BOOK, TO WHICH MATO ORDERS KUREKO'S SECRET ADMIRER, MIZUHO, AND MINARE, TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON. HOWEVER, THEY FALL PREY TO THEIR GUIDE, HOKAKUSHI'S, TRAP, AND ARE PLUNGED INTO A PITFALL.

OW...

...?

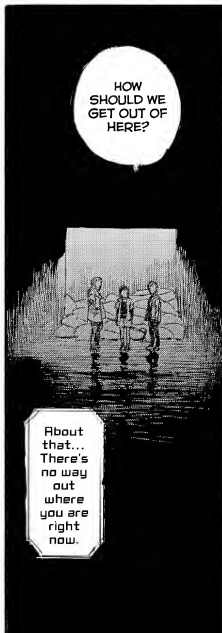




OOP.

NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT...

I'D UNDER-
STAND IF THIS
WERE A COAL
MINE, BUT WHY
WOULD ANYONE
BUILD A TUNNEL
LIKE THIS ON
DEVELOPED
LAND?



HOW
SHOULD WE
GET OUT OF
HERE?

About
that...
There's
no way
out
where
you are
right
now.



Oh,
thank
good-
ness!

YEAH,
WE'RE
FINE.



HELLO?

Kureko-san!
Are you all
okay?!



I'm sorry!
I forgot
to warn
you...

It's
an old
irrigation
canal.
It hasn't
been
used for
years.

THAT'S
ALL RIGHT,
BUT WHAT
IS THIS
PLACE?

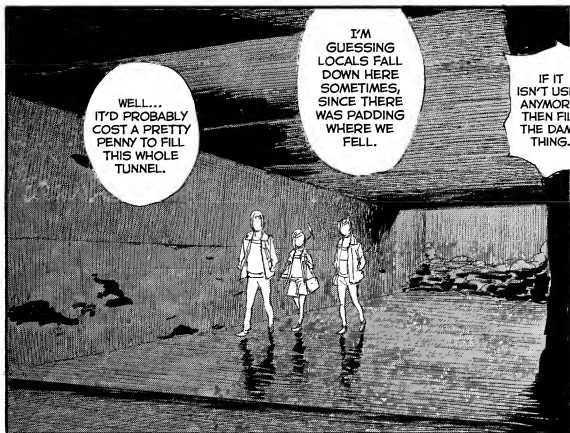


...AHH.
YEAH,
I SEE IT.

If you
look
down the
tunnel...

Please walk
towards it.
You can get
out from
there.

...you
should
see a light
in the
distance.



WELL....
IT'D PROBABLY
COST A PRETTY
PENNY TO FILL
THIS WHOLE
TUNNEL.

I'M
GUESSING
LOCALS FALL
DOWN HERE
SOMETIMES,
SINCE THERE
WAS PADDING
WHERE WE
FELL.

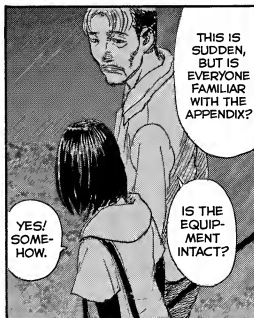
IF IT
ISN'T USED
ANYMORE,
THEN FILL
THE DAMN
THING.



I
COMPLETELY
FORGOT
THANKS TO
MY ACHING
TAILBONE.

OH,
YEAH.

ANYWAY,
MINARE-SAN.
THIS IS THE
PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY
TO RECORD
SOMETHING!



THIS IS
SUDDEN,
BUT IS
EVERYONE
FAMILIAR
WITH THE
APPENDIX?

YES!
SOME-
HOW.

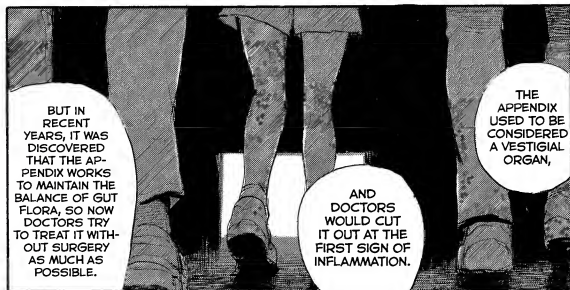
IS THE
EQUIP-
MENT
INTACT?



UHH.
CONTINUING
WITH OUR
WASSAMU
GHOST STORY
SPECIAL,
THIS IS WAVE,
LISTEN TO
ME!

YOU
CAN'T GET
THAT IN A
STUDIO.

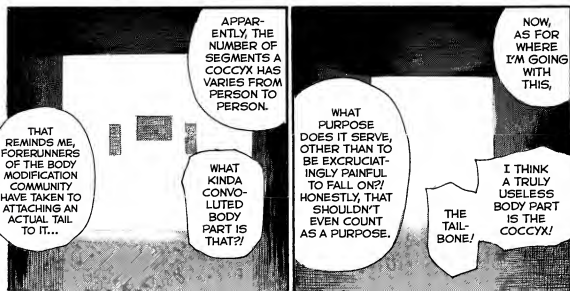
CHECK
OUT
THIS
REVERB!



BUT IN
RECENT
YEARS, IT WAS
DISCOVERED
THAT THE AP-
PENDIX WORKS
TO MAINTAIN THE
BALANCE OF GUT
FLORA, SO NOW
DOCTORS TRY
TO TREAT IT WITH-
OUT SURGERY
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE.

THE
APPENDIX
USED TO BE
CONSIDERED
A VESTIGIAL
ORGAN,

AND
DOCTORS
WOULD CUT
IT OUT AT THE
FIRST SIGN OF
INFLAMMATION.



THAT
REMINDS ME,
FORERUNNERS
OF THE BODY
MODIFICATION
COMMUNITY
HAVE TAKEN TO
ATTACHING AN
ACTUAL TAIL
TO IT...

APPAR-
ENTLY, THE
NUMBER OF
SEGMENTS A
COCCYX HAS
VARIES FROM
PERSON TO
PERSON.

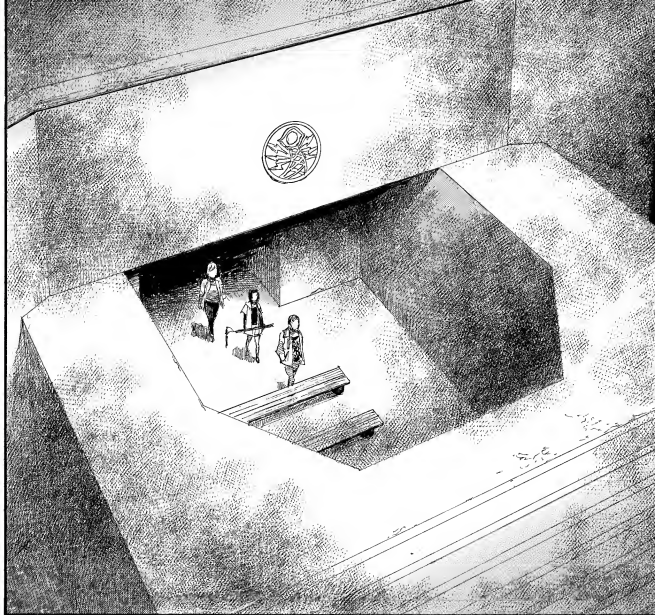
WHAT
KINDA
CONVO-
LUTED
BODY
PART IS
THAT?!

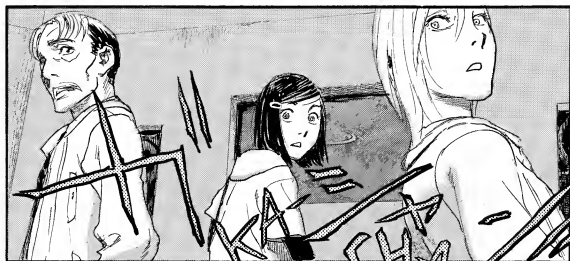
WHAT
PURPOSE
DOES IT SERVE,
OTHER THAN TO
BE EXCRUCIAT-
INGLY PAINFUL
TO FALL ON?/
HONESTLY, THAT
SHOULDN'T
EVEN COUNT
AS A PURPOSE.

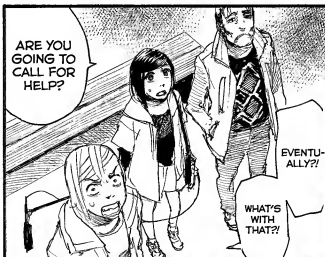
NOW,
AS FOR
WHERE
I'M GOING
WITH
THIS,

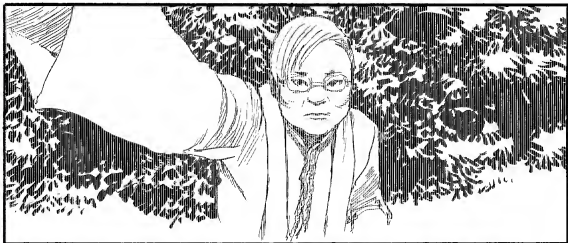
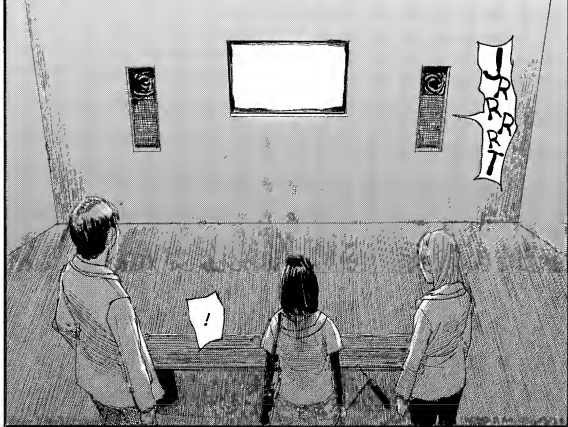
THE
TAIL-
BONE!

I THINK
A TRULY
USELESS
BODY PART
IS THE
COCCYX!





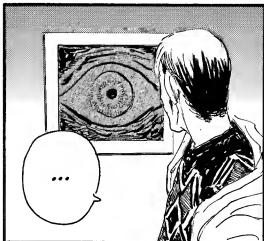






I REPRESENT
THE RELIGIOUS
ORGANIZATION,
THE SCHOOL
OF WAVE
WISDOM.

MY NAME
IS TRIKUMIA
HANAWA.



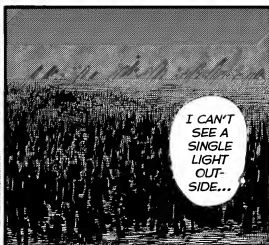
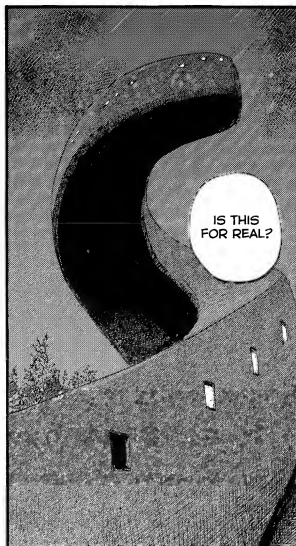
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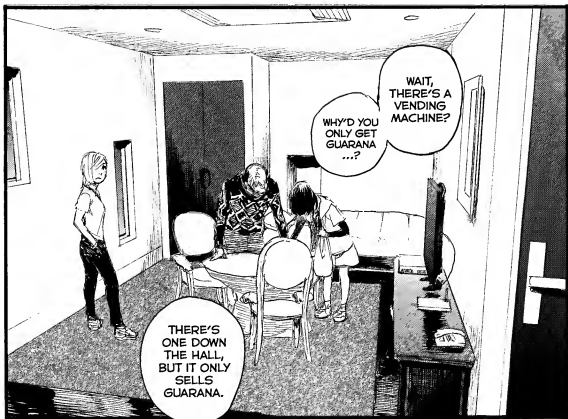


PLEASE
MAKE
YOURSELF
AT HOME.

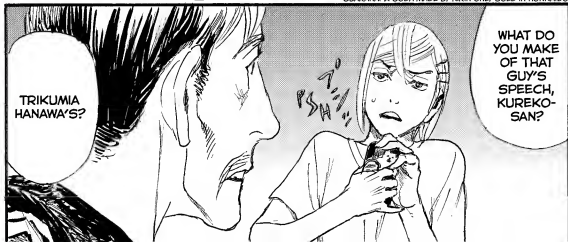
IS IT
COOL
IF I
SMOKE?

OF
COURSE.

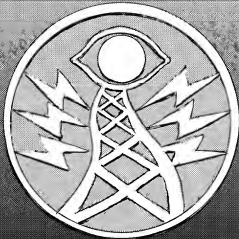




*GUARANA: A SODA MADE BY KIRIN ONLY SOLD IN HOKKAIDO.



...IS A
CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATION THAT
RUNS UNDER THE
BANNER OF THE
PRESERVATION AND
RESTORATION OF
BROADCAST
CULTURE.



THE SCHOOL
OF WAVE
WISDOM...

UNTIL
TELEVISION
TOOK THE
THRONE IN
1970.



EVER SINCE
THE FOUNDING
OF THE JAPAN
BROADCASTING
CORPORATION IN
1920, RADIO REIGNED
AS THE CENTER
FOR ENTERTAINMENT
FOR HALF A
CENTURY,

COMPANIES
ARE ESPECIALLY
AT A LOSS AS
TO HOW TO CURB
THE THINNING
INTEREST IN
BROADCAST
MEDIA AMONG
THE YOUNGER
GENERATION.

AND
NOW IN
THE 2010'S,
TV IS ALSO
GRADUALLY
LOSING ITS
SPOT AS THE
SUPREME
RULER OF
ENTERTAIN-
MENT.

WITH THEIR
HIGH PRODUCTION
COSTS, LONG-TERM
DOCUMENTARIES AND
DRAMAS HAVE ALL
BUT DIED OUT. NOW-
DAYS, TV HAS BECOME
A PLATFORM FOR
THE SOLE PURPOSE
OF COMEDIANS AND
CELEBRITIES TO MAKE
A COMMOTION ON.



THE
BURDEN OF
DECREASING
AD REVENUE
FALLS ON THE
PRODUCTION
COMPANIES.

TELEVISION
MEDIA HAS SEEN
A DROP OF 6%
IN ADVERTISING
SHARES OVER
THE LAST FIVE
YEARS, WHILE
INTERNET MEDIA
HAS SEEN AN
INCREASE
OF 15%.

THINGS
ARE
GRIM
TO BE
SURE.

STALLS IN
MULTIMEDIA
BROADCASTING
VENTURES DUE
TO A LACK OF
CONSENSUS,
PODCASTS THAT
DON'T TURN A
PROFIT NO MATTER
HOW HIGH THE
LISTENER BASE...



THE
SITUATION IS
EVEN MORE DIRE
FOR RADIO.
RADIO HAS BEEN
COMPLETELY
SUPERSEDED
BY THE INTERNET
AS THE PREDOM-
INANT SOURCE
FOR TRANSPAR-
ENT MEDIA.

HAS IT
ALWAYS BEEN
THE PATHETIC
INDUSTRY THAT
ROLLS ITS EYES
AT THE INTERNET'S
PROSPERITY WHILE
AWKWARDLY TRYING
TO SNUGGLE UP TO
THE PLATFORM?

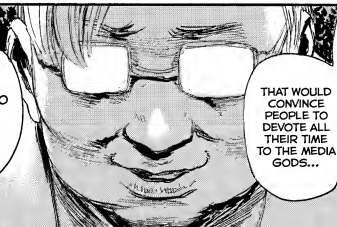


WASSAMU SPECIALTY:
PUMPKIN

HAS THE
BROAD-
CASTING
INDUSTRY
ALWAYS BEEN
THIS WAY?

HOW-
EVER,
MY
FRIENDS.

...WHILE
LEADING THEM TO
BELIEVE IT WAS
A PRODUCTIVE
ENDEAVOR?



THAT WOULD
CONVINCE
PEOPLE TO
DEVOTE ALL
THEIR TIME
TO THE MEDIA
GODS...

WAS
IT NOT
SIMILAR
TO A
RELIGION
...

20 MINUTES LATER

STREAMERS?!
DON'T MAKE
ME LAUGH!

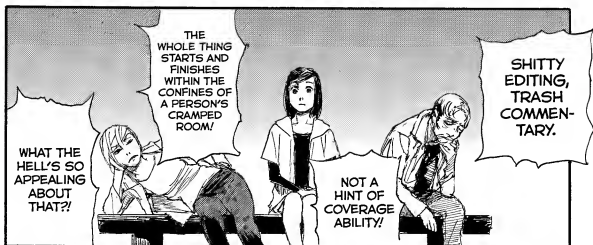
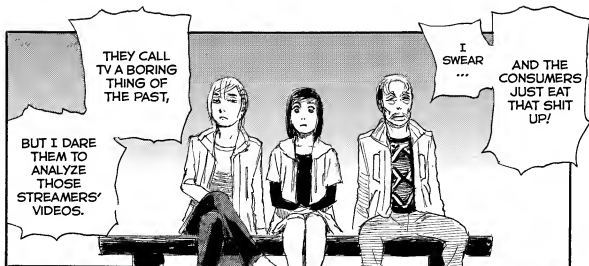
JUST A BUNCH
OF AMATEURS
ACTING LIKE
PERFORMERS!

THEY DON'T
HAVE A SHRED
OF PROFES-
SIONALISM!

ALL THEY
DO IS PLAY
GAMES, EAT
FOOD,

AND SING
KARAOKE,
FOR GOD'S
SAKE!







IF IT
ISN'T THE
VILLAIN'S
RIGHT
HAND!

AH!

GOOD
GUESS.



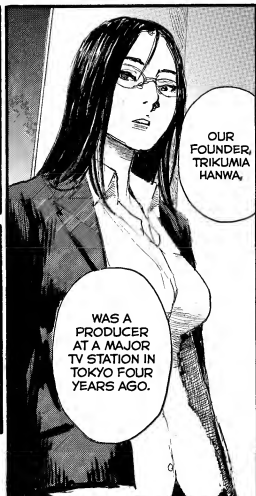
IT
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
AS BIG OF A
DEAL IF IT
WAS AN
INFORMA-
TIVE VARIETY
SHOW...

PEOPLE
BASHED HIM
AFTER ONE OF
HIS SHOWS
AIRED A STAGED
SEGMENT THAT
CAME OFF AS
IMMORAL.



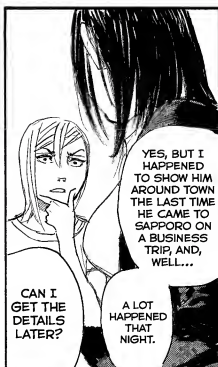
SO
HE TOOK
RESPONSIB-
ILITY BY
RESIGNING.

...BUT
IT WAS
A DOCU-
MENTARY
DEALING
WITH DISCRIM-
INATION
ISSUES,



OUR
FOUNDER,
TRIKUMIA
HANWA,

WAS A
PRODUCER
AT A MAJOR
TV STATION IN
TOKYO FOUR
YEARS AGO.



CAN I
GET THE
DETAILS
LATER?

YES, BUT I
HAPPENED
TO SHOW HIM
AROUND TOWN
THE LAST TIME
HE CAME TO
SAPPORO ON
A BUSINESS
TRIP, AND,
WELL...

A LOT
HAPPENED
THAT
NIGHT.

WHY
SOMEONE
FROM A
REGIONAL
AFFILIATE
STATION?

COULDN'T
HE HAVE
ASKED
SOMEONE
FROM
THE MAIN
OFFICE?



HE SAID
HE WAS
GOING TO
START A NEW
COMPANY
AND ASKED
FOR MY
HELP.

I WAS
WORKING
IN THE
COMPILATION
ROOM AT AN
AFFILIATE
STATION IN
SAPPORO AT
THE TIME.



OH...

IT'S JUST
THAT I WAS
ASKED TO
GET SOMEONE
WHO EITHER
WORKED IN TV
OR A RADIO
WORKER FROM
A STATION THAT
ALSO DEALS
IN TV.

ARE
YOU TIRED,
HOKAKUSHI-
SAN? YOU
SEEM
EXHAUSTED.



DID THEY
MAKE YOU
EAT A NAIL
CLIPPING
OR SOME-
THING?!

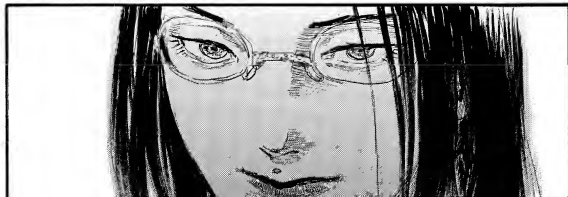
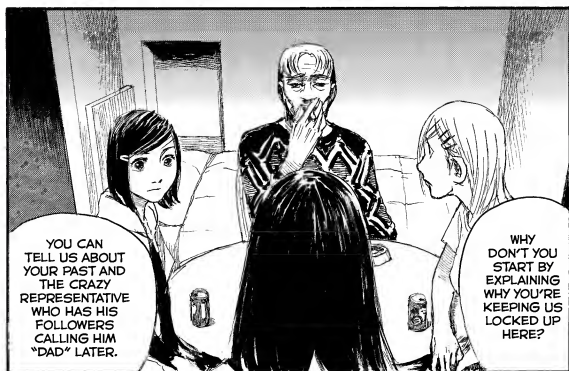
WHAT DID
THEY DO
TO YOU?!

PUN-
ISHED?!



...I WAS
PUNISHED
A LITTLE.

SINCE
MRS IS
RADIO
ONLY...





THE
FIRST...

...IS
THAT WE'D
LIKE YOU TO
CREATE A
NUMBER OF
RADIO
PROGRAMS
FOLLOWING OUR
INSTRUCTIONS.



MY
APOL-
OGIES.
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

WE
HAVE TWO
DEMANDS,
NEITHER OF
WHICH I'D
SAY ARE VERY
DIFFICULT.



...IS THAT
WE'D LIKE
MOIWAYAMA
RADIO TO
AIR THEM.

AND THE
SECOND...

